

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM

2157 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING

WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6143

MAJORITY (202) 225-5074
MINORITY (202) 225-5051
<http://oversight.house.gov>

December 19, 2018

The Honorable Kirstjen M. Nielsen
Secretary
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
245 Murray Lane, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20528

Dear Madam Secretary:

As you know, Democrats will be in the majority in the House of Representatives beginning in January, and I have been chosen as the incoming Chairman of the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform. I am writing to request that you fully comply with the Committee's previous bipartisan request for documents regarding the agency's compliance with whistleblower protection laws, as set forth in the letter from Rep. Mark Meadows and Rep. Gerald E. Connolly, the Chairman and Ranking Member of the Subcommittee on Government Operations, on February 7, 2017.¹ I intend to continue this investigation in the next Congress.

Please refer to the attached instructions on how to respond to this document request. As specified therein, upon completion of the document production, please submit a written certification that a diligent search has been completed and all responsive documents have been produced to the Committee.

Please provide all responsive documents and the certification by January 11, 2019. If you have any questions about this request, please contact my staff at (202) 225-5051.

¹ Letter from Chairman Mark Meadows and Ranking Member Gerald E. Connolly, Subcommittee on Government Operations, House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, to Secretary John Kelly, Department of Homeland Security (Feb. 7, 2017) (<https://democrats-oversight.house.gov/sites/democrats.oversight.house.gov/files/2017-02-07%20Connolly%20Meadows%20to%20Kelly-DHS%20on%20NDAs.pdf>).

The Honorable Kirstjen M. Nielsen
Page 2

Thank you for your prompt attention to this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Elijah E. Cummings". The signature is stylized with a large "E" and a long, sweeping underline.

Elijah E. Cummings
Ranking Member

cc: The Honorable Trey Gowdy, Chairman

Responding to Document Requests

1. In complying with this request, produce all responsive documents that are in your possession, custody, or control, whether held by you or your past or present agents, employees, and representatives acting on your behalf. You should also produce documents that you have a legal right to obtain, that you have a right to copy or to which you have access, as well as documents that you have placed in the temporary possession, custody, or control of any third party. Requested records, documents, data or information should not be destroyed, modified, removed, transferred or otherwise made inaccessible to the Requestors.
2. In the event that any entity, organization or individual denoted in this request has been, or is also known by any other name than that herein denoted, the request shall be read also to include that alternative identification.
3. The Requestors' preference is to receive documents in electronic form (i.e., CD, memory stick, or thumb drive) in lieu of paper productions.
4. Documents produced in electronic format should also be organized, identified, and indexed electronically.
5. Electronic document productions should be prepared according to the following standards:
 - (a) The production should consist of single page Tagged Image File ("TIF"), files accompanied by a Concordance-format load file, an Opticon reference file, and a file defining the fields and character lengths of the load file.
 - (b) Document numbers in the load file should match document Bates numbers and TIF file names.
 - (c) If the production is completed through a series of multiple partial productions, field names and file order in all load files should match.
 - (d) All electronic documents produced to the Requestors should include the following fields of metadata specific to each document;

BEGDOC, ENDDOC, TEXT, BEGATTACH, ENDATTACH, PAGECOUNT, CUSTODIAN, RECORDTYPE, DATE, TIME, SENTDATE, SENTTIME, BEGINDATE, BEGINTIME, ENDDATE, ENDTIME, AUTHOR, FROM, CC, TO, BCC, SUBJECT, TITLE, FILENAME, FILEEXT, FILESIZE, DATECREATED, TIMECREATED, DATELASTMOD, TIMELASTMOD, INTMSGID, INTMSGHEADER, NATIVELINK, INTFILPATH, EXCEPTION, BEGATTACH.

6. Documents produced to the Requestors should include an index describing the contents of the production. To the extent more than one CD, hard drive, memory stick, thumb drive, box or folder is produced, each CD, hard drive, memory stick, thumb drive, box or folder should contain an index describing its contents.
7. Documents produced in response to this request shall be produced together with copies of file labels, dividers or identifying markers with which they were associated when the request was served.

8. When you produce documents, you should identify the paragraph in the Requestors' letter to which the documents respond.
9. It shall not be a basis for refusal to produce documents that any other person or entity also possesses non-identical or identical copies of the same documents.
10. If any of the requested information is only reasonably available in machine-readable form (such as on a computer server, hard drive, or computer backup tape), you should consult with the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee's Democratic staff to determine the appropriate format in which to produce the information.
11. If compliance with the request cannot be made in full by the specified return date, compliance should be made to the extent possible by that date. An explanation of why full compliance is not possible shall be provided along with any partial production.
12. In the event that a document is withheld on the basis of privilege, provide a privilege log containing the following information concerning any such document: (a) the privilege asserted; (b) the type of document; (c) the general subject matter; (d) the date, author and addressee; and (e) the relationship of the author and addressee to each other.
13. If any document responsive to this request was, but no longer is, in your possession, custody, or control, identify the document (stating its date, author, subject and recipients) and explain the circumstances under which the document ceased to be in your possession, custody, or control.
14. If a date or other descriptive detail set forth in this request referring to a document is inaccurate, but the actual date or other descriptive detail is known to you or is otherwise apparent from the context of the request, produce all documents which would be responsive as if the date or other descriptive detail were correct.
15. Unless otherwise specified, the time period covered by this request is from January 1, 2016, to the present.
16. This request is continuing in nature and applies to any newly-discovered information. Any record, document, compilation of data or information, not produced because it has not been located or discovered by the return date, should be produced immediately upon subsequent location or discovery.
17. All documents should be Bates-stamped sequentially and produced sequentially.
18. Two sets of documents should be delivered, one set to the Majority Staff and one set to the Minority Staff. When documents are produced to the Committee, production sets shall be delivered to the Majority Staff in Room 2157 of the Rayburn House Office Building and the Minority Staff in Room 2471 of the Rayburn House Office Building.
19. Upon completion of the document production, you should submit a written certification, signed by you or your counsel, stating that: (1) a diligent search has been completed of all documents in your possession, custody, or control which reasonably could contain responsive documents; and (2) all documents located during the search that are responsive have been produced to the Requestors.

Definitions

1. The term “document” means any written, recorded, or graphic matter of any nature whatsoever, regardless of how recorded, and whether original or copy, including, but not limited to, the following: memoranda, reports, expense reports, books, manuals, instructions, financial reports, working papers, records, notes, letters, notices, confirmations, telegrams, receipts, appraisals, pamphlets, magazines, newspapers, prospectuses, inter-office and intra-office communications, electronic mail (e-mail), contracts, cables, notations of any type of conversation, telephone call, meeting or other communication, bulletins, printed matter, computer printouts, teletypes, invoices, transcripts, diaries, analyses, returns, summaries, minutes, bills, accounts, estimates, projections, comparisons, messages, correspondence, press releases, circulars, financial statements, reviews, opinions, offers, studies and investigations, questionnaires and surveys, and work sheets (and all drafts, preliminary versions, alterations, modifications, revisions, changes, and amendments of any of the foregoing, as well as any attachments or appendices thereto), and graphic or oral records or representations of any kind (including without limitation, photographs, charts, graphs, microfiche, microfilm, videotape, recordings and motion pictures), and electronic, mechanical, and electric records or representations of any kind (including, without limitation, tapes, cassettes, disks, and recordings) and other written, printed, typed, or other graphic or recorded matter of any kind or nature, however produced or reproduced, and whether preserved in writing, film, tape, disk, videotape or otherwise. A document bearing any notation not a part of the original text is to be considered a separate document. A draft or non-identical copy is a separate document within the meaning of this term.
2. The term “communication” means each manner or means of disclosure or exchange of information, regardless of means utilized, whether oral, electronic, by document or otherwise, and whether in a meeting, by telephone, facsimile, email (desktop or mobile device), text message, instant message, MMS or SMS message, regular mail, telexes, releases, or otherwise.
3. The terms “and” and “or” shall be construed broadly and either conjunctively or disjunctively to bring within the scope of this request any information which might otherwise be construed to be outside its scope. The singular includes plural number, and vice versa. The masculine includes the feminine and neuter genders.
4. The terms “person” or “persons” mean natural persons, firms, partnerships, associations, corporations, subsidiaries, divisions, departments, joint ventures, proprietorships, syndicates, or other legal, business or government entities, and all subsidiaries, affiliates, divisions, departments, branches, or other units thereof.
5. The term “identify,” when used in a question about individuals, means to provide the following information: (a) the individual's complete name and title; and (b) the individual's business address and phone number.
6. The term “referring or relating,” with respect to any given subject, means anything that constitutes, contains, embodies, reflects, identifies, states, refers to, deals with or is pertinent to that subject in any manner whatsoever.

7. The term “employee” means agent, borrowed employee, casual employee, consultant, contractor, de facto employee, independent contractor, joint adventurer, loaned employee, part-time employee, permanent employee, provisional employee, subcontractor, or any other type of service provider.

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MINORITY (202) 225-5051
<http://oversight.house.gov>

December 19, 2018

Mr. Matthew G. Whitaker
Acting Attorney General
U.S. Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20530

Dear Acting Attorney General Whitaker:

As you know, Democrats will be in the majority in the House of Representatives beginning in January, and I have been chosen as the incoming Chairman of the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform. I am writing to request that you fully comply with the Committee's previous bipartisan request for documents regarding the agency's compliance with whistleblower protection laws, as set forth in the letter from Rep. Mark Meadows and Rep. Gerald E. Connolly, the Chairman and Ranking Member of the Subcommittee on Government Operations, on February 7, 2017.¹ I intend to continue this investigation in the next Congress.

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Please provide all responsive documents and the certification by January 11, 2019. If you have any questions about this request, please contact my staff at (202) 225-5051.

¹ Letter from Chairman Mark Meadows and Ranking Member Gerald E. Connolly, Subcommittee on Government Operations, House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, to Acting Attorney General Dana Boente, Department of Justice (Feb. 7, 2017) (<https://democrats-oversight.house.gov/sites/democrats.oversight.house.gov/files/2017-02-07.Connolly%20Meadows%20to%20Boente-DoJ%20on%20NDAs.pdf>).

Mr. Matthew G. Whitaker
Page 2

Thank you for your prompt attention to this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Elijah E. Cummings". The signature is stylized with a large, looping "E" and a long, sweeping underline.

Elijah E. Cummings
Ranking Member

cc: The Honorable Trey Gowdy, Chairman

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December 19, 2018

The Honorable Robert Wilkie
Secretary
U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
810 Vermont Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20420

Dear Mr. Secretary:

As you know, Democrats will be in the majority in the House of Representatives beginning in January, and I have been chosen as the incoming Chairman of the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform. I am writing to request that you fully comply with the Committee's previous bipartisan request for documents regarding the agency's compliance with whistleblower protection laws, as set forth in the letter from Rep. Mark Meadows and Rep. Gerald E. Connolly, the Chairman and Ranking Member of the Subcommittee on Government Operations, on February 7, 2017.¹ I intend to continue this investigation in the next Congress.

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¹ Letter from Chairman Mark Meadows and Ranking Member Gerald E. Connolly, Subcommittee on Government Operations, House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, to Acting Secretary Robert Snyder, Department of Veterans Affairs (Feb. 7, 2017) (<https://democrats-oversight.house.gov/sites/democrats.oversight.house.gov/files/2017-02-07.Meadows%20Connolly%20to%20Snyder-VA%20re%20NDAs.pdf>).

The Honorable Robert Wilkie
Page 2

Thank you for your prompt attention to this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Elijah E. Cummings". The signature is stylized with a large, flowing "E" and a prominent "A" at the end.

Elijah E. Cummings
Ranking Member

cc: The Honorable Trey Gowdy, Chairman

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December 19, 2018

The Honorable Sonny Perdue
Secretary
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20250

Dear Mr. Secretary:

As you know, Democrats will be in the majority in the House of Representatives beginning in January, and I have been chosen as the incoming Chairman of the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform. I am writing to request that you fully comply with the Committee's previous bipartisan request for documents regarding the agency's compliance with whistleblower protection laws, as set forth in the letter from Rep. Mark Meadows and Rep. Gerald E. Connolly, the Chairman and Ranking Member of the Subcommittee on Government Operations, on February 7, 2017.¹ I intend to continue this investigation in the next Congress.

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¹ Letter from Chairman Mark Meadows and Ranking Member Gerald E. Connolly, Subcommittee on Government Operations, House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, to Acting Secretary Michael Scuse, Department of Agriculture (Feb. 7, 2017) (<https://democrats-oversight.house.gov/sites/democrats.oversight.house.gov/files/2017-02-07.Meadows%20Connolly%20to%20Scuse-USDA%20re%20NDAs.pdf>).

The Honorable Sonny Perdue
Page 2

Thank you for your prompt attention to this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Elijah E. Cummings". The signature is stylized with a large, looping "E" and a prominent "C".

Elijah E. Cummings
Ranking Member

cc: The Honorable Trey Gowdy, Chairman

Congress of the United States
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December 19, 2018

The Honorable Steven Mnuchin
Secretary
U.S. Department of Treasury
1500 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20220

Dear Mr. Secretary:

As you know, Democrats will be in the majority in the House of Representatives beginning in January, and I have been chosen as the incoming Chairman of the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform. I am writing to request that you fully comply with the Committee's previous bipartisan request for documents regarding the agency's compliance with whistleblower protection laws, as set forth in the letter from Rep. Mark Meadows and Rep. Gerald E. Connolly, the Chairman and Ranking Member of the Subcommittee on Government Operations, on February 7, 2017.¹ I intend to continue this investigation in the next Congress.

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¹ Letter from Chairman Mark Meadows and Ranking Member Gerald E. Connolly, Subcommittee on Government Operations, House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, to Acting Secretary Adam Szubin, Department of Treasury (Feb. 7, 2017) (<https://democrats-oversight.house.gov/sites/democrats.oversight.house.gov/files/2017-02-07.Meadows%20Connolly%20to%20Szubin-Treasury%20re%20NDAs.pdf>).

The Honorable Steven Mnuchin
Page 2

Thank you for your prompt attention to this request.

Sincerely,


Elijah E. Cummings
Ranking Member

cc: The Honorable Trey Gowdy, Chairman

Congress of the United States
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COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM

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<http://oversight.house.gov>

December 19, 2018

The Honorable Alex M. Azar II
Secretary
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Ave., S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20201

Dear Mr. Secretary:

As you know, Democrats will be in the majority in the House of Representatives beginning in January, and I have been chosen as the incoming Chairman of the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform. I am writing to request that you fully comply with the Committee's previous bipartisan request for documents regarding the agency's compliance with whistleblower protection laws, as set forth in the letter from Rep. Mark Meadows and Rep. Gerald E. Connolly, the Chairman and Ranking Member of the Subcommittee on Government Operations, on February 7, 2017.¹ I intend to continue this investigation in the next Congress.

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¹ Letter from Chairman Mark Meadows and Ranking Member Gerald E. Connolly, Subcommittee on Government Operations, House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, to Acting Secretary Norris Cochran, Department of Health and Human Services (Feb. 7, 2017) (online at <https://democrats-oversight.house.gov/sites/democrats.oversight.house.gov/files/2017-02-07.Meadows%20Connolly%20to%20Cochran-HHS%20on%20NDAs.pdf>).

The Honorable Alex M. Azar II
Page 2

Thank you for your prompt attention to this request.

Sincerely,


Elijah E. Cummings
Ranking Member

cc: The Honorable Trey Gowdy, Chairman

Congress of the United States

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COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM

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<http://oversight.house.gov>

December 19, 2018

The Honorable Elaine L. Chao
Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Madam Secretary:

As you know, Democrats will be in the majority in the House of Representatives beginning in January, and I have been chosen as the incoming Chairman of the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform. I am writing to request that you fully comply with the Committee's previous bipartisan request for documents regarding the agency's compliance with whistleblower protection laws, as set forth in the letter from Rep. Mark Meadows and Rep. Gerald E. Connolly, the Chairman and Ranking Member of the Subcommittee on Government Operations, on February 7, 2017.¹ I intend to continue this investigation in the next Congress.

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¹ Letter from Chairman Mark Meadows and Ranking Member Gerald E. Connolly, Subcommittee on Government Operations, House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, to Secretary Elaine L. Chao, Department of Transportation (Feb. 7, 2017) (online at <https://democrats-oversight.house.gov/sites/democrats.oversight.house.gov/files/2017-02-07.Meadows%20Connolly%20to%20Chao-DoT%20on%20NDAs.pdf>).

Honorable Elaine L. Chao
Page 2

Thank you for your prompt attention to this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Elijah E. Cummings". The signature is stylized with a large, looped "E" and a prominent "J" at the end.

Elijah E. Cummings
Ranking Member

cc: The Honorable Trey Gowdy, Chairman

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

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<http://oversight.house.gov>

December 19, 2018

The Honorable R. Alexander Acosta
Secretary
U.S. Department of Labor
200 Constitution Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20210

Dear Mr. Secretary:

As you know, Democrats will be in the majority in the House of Representatives beginning in January, and I have been chosen as the incoming Chairman of the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform. I am writing to request that you fully comply with the Committee's previous bipartisan request for documents regarding the agency's compliance with whistleblower protection laws, as set forth in the letter from Rep. Mark Meadows and Rep. Gerald E. Connolly, the Chairman and Ranking Member of the Subcommittee on Government Operations, on February 7, 2017.¹ I intend to continue this investigation in the next Congress.

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¹ Letter from Chairman Mark Meadows and Ranking Member Gerald E. Connolly, Subcommittee on Government Operations, House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, to Acting Edward Hugler, Department of Labor (Feb. 7, 2017) (<https://democrats-oversight.house.gov/sites/democrats.oversight.house.gov/files/2017-02-07.Meadows%20Connolly%20to%20Hugler-DoL%20re%20NDAs.pdf>).

The Honorable R. Alexander Acosta
Page 2

Thank you for your prompt attention to this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Elijah E. Cummings". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Elijah" being the most prominent.

Elijah E. Cummings
Ranking Member

cc: The Honorable Trey Gowdy, Chairman

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM

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December 19, 2018

The Honorable Ryan Zinke
Secretary
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Mr. Secretary:

As you know, Democrats will be in the majority in the House of Representatives beginning in January, and I have been chosen as the incoming Chairman of the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform. I am writing to request that you fully comply with the Committee's previous bipartisan request for documents regarding the agency's compliance with whistleblower protection laws, as set forth in the letter from Rep. Mark Meadows and Rep. Gerald E. Connolly, the Chairman and Ranking Member of the Subcommittee on Government Operations, on February 7, 2017.¹ I intend to continue this investigation in the next Congress.

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¹ Letter from Chairman Mark Meadows and Ranking Member Gerald E. Connolly, Subcommittee on Government Operations, House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, to Acting Secretary Kevin Haugrud, Department of the Interior (Feb. 7, 2017) (online <https://democrats-oversight.house.gov/sites/democrats.oversight.house.gov/files/2017-02-07.Meadows%20Connolly%20to%20Haugrud-DoI%20re%20NDAs.pdf>).

The Honorable Ryan Zinke
Page 2

Thank you for your prompt attention to this request.

Sincerely,


Elijah E. Cummings
Ranking Member

cc: The Honorable Trey Gowdy, Chairman

Congress of the United States
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<http://oversight.house.gov>

December 19, 2018

The Honorable Rick Perry
Secretary
U.S. Department of Energy
100 Independence Ave., S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20585

Dear Mr. Secretary:

As you know, Democrats will be in the majority in the House of Representatives beginning in January, and I have been chosen as the incoming Chairman of the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform. I am writing to request that you fully comply with the Committee's previous bipartisan request for documents regarding the agency's compliance with whistleblower protection laws, as set forth in the letter from Rep. Mark Meadows and Rep. Gerald E. Connolly, the Chairman and Ranking Member of the Subcommittee on Government Operations, on February 7, 2017.¹ I intend to continue this investigation in the next Congress.

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¹ Letter from Chairman Mark Meadows and Ranking Member Gerald E. Connolly, Subcommittee on Government Operations, House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, to Acting Secretary Grace Bochenek, Department of Energy (Feb. 7, 2017) (online at <https://democrats-oversight.house.gov/sites/democrats.oversight.house.gov/files/2017-02-07.Meadows%20Connolly%20to%20Bochenek-DoE%20on%20NDAs.pdf>).

The Honorable Rick Perry
Page 2

Thank you for your prompt attention to this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Elijah E. Cummings". The signature is stylized with a large, looped "E" and a trailing flourish.

Elijah E. Cummings
Ranking Member

cc: The Honorable Trey Gowdy, Chairman

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<http://oversight.house.gov>

December 19, 2018

The Honorable James N. Mattis
Secretary
U.S. Department of Defense
1400 Defense Pentagon
Washington, D.C. 20301-1400

Dear Mr. Secretary:

As you know, Democrats will be in the majority in the House of Representatives beginning in January, and I have been chosen as the incoming Chairman of the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform. I am writing to request that you fully comply with the Committee's previous bipartisan request for documents regarding the agency's compliance with whistleblower protection laws, as set forth in the letter from Rep. Mark Meadows and Rep. Gerald E. Connolly, the Chairman and Ranking Member of the Subcommittee on Government Operations, on February 7, 2017.¹ I intend to continue this investigation in the next Congress.

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¹ Letter from Chairman Mark Meadows and Ranking Member Gerald E. Connolly, Subcommittee on Government Operations, House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, to Secretary James N. Mattis, Department of Defense (Feb. 7, 2017) (<https://democrats-oversight.house.gov/sites/democrats.oversight.house.gov/files/2017-02-07.Meadows%20Connolly%20to%20Mattis-DoD%20re%20NDAs.pdf>).

The Honorable James N. Mattis
Page 2

Thank you for your prompt attention to this request.

Sincerely,

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Elijah E. Cummings
Ranking Member

cc: The Honorable Trey Gowdy, Chairman

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM

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WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6143

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<http://oversight.house.gov>

December 19, 2018

The Honorable Wilbur L. Ross, Jr.
Secretary
U.S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Avenue NW
Washington, D.C. 20230

Dear Mr. Secretary:

As you know, Democrats will be in the majority in the House of Representatives beginning in January, and I have been chosen as the incoming Chairman of the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform. I am writing to request that you fully comply with the Committee's previous bipartisan request for documents regarding the agency's compliance with whistleblower protection laws, as set forth in the letter from Rep. Mark Meadows and Rep. Gerald E. Connolly, the Chairman and Ranking Member of the Subcommittee on Government Operations, on February 7, 2017.¹ I intend to continue this investigation in the next Congress.

Please refer to the attached instructions on how to respond to this document request. As specified therein, upon completion of the document production, please submit a written certification that a diligent search has been completed and all responsive documents have been produced to the Committee.

Please provide all responsive documents and the certification by January 11, 2019. If you have any questions about this request, please contact my staff at (202) 225-5051.

¹ Letter from Chairman Mark Meadows and Ranking Member Gerald E. Connolly, Subcommittee on Government Operations, House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, to Secretary Wilbur Ross, Department of Commerce (Feb. 7, 2017) (online <https://democrats-oversight.house.gov/sites/democrats.oversight.house.gov/files/2017-02-07.Meadows%20Connolly%20to%20Clemmens-HUD%20on%20NDAs.pdf>).

The Honorable Wilbur L. Ross, Jr.
Page 2

Thank you for your prompt attention to this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Elijah E. Cummings". The signature is stylized with a large, looping "E" and a long, sweeping "S" at the end.

Elijah E. Cummings
Ranking Member

cc: The Honorable Trey Gowdy, Chairman